

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /021 W

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O R 031410Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7444

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT/TPD (THOMPSON) AND BIC/OIM (LISA UNKOVIC, ROOM 4821

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SENV, CZ

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR ON WATER PURIFICATION AND
TREATMENT

REFS: A. PRAGUE 3018 (NOTAL)

B. MOSCOW 19007

C. UNKOVIC- PURNELL TELECON

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)
JANUARY 3 THAT, DUE TO CONFLICT IN SCHEDULES, FEDERAL MINISTRY
OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT (MFTIR) WILL
BE UNABLE TO SPONSOR SUBJECT SEMINAR. ACCORDING TO MFA
OFFICIAL, FMTIR IS INVOLVED AT PRESENT IN PREPARATIONS FOR
ANOTHER SEMINAR ON WATER POLLUTION WHICH APPARENTLY
PRECLUDES ANY POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATING WITH USDOC AND
EMBASSY ON TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR. SINCE FMTIR IS
CONTROLLING AGENCY WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ON SUCH
MATTERS (SEE REFTEL A), IT APPEARS THAT WATER POLLUTION SEMINAR
IS EFFECTIVELY CANCELLED AS FAR AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS CONCERNED.

2. AS INDICATED REFTEL (A), FMTIR HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DIFFICULT
FEDERAL MINISTRY TO DEAL WITH; BUT IN THIS INSTANCE IT IS HARD
TO CONCLUDE THAT EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS, SPECIFICALLY THE
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INCLUSION OF LONG-GRAVEL AMENDMENT IN TRADE ACT OF 1974,

DID NOT FIGURE INTO FMTIR DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT WATER POLLUTION SEMINAR. WE MAY BE WRONG^{3*}, OF COURSE, BUT CURIOUS MANNER IN WHICH FMTIR HELD EMBASSY OFFICERS AT BAY, FORCING US TO DEAL INDIRECTLY THROUGH MFA -- ONCE AT A HIGH LEVEL -- INDICATES THAT OTHER CURRENTS WERE RUNNING. WE ARE REINFORCED IN THIS VIEW BY FACT THAT ONLY OTHER WATER POLLUTION SEMINAR WE KNOW OF WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING 1975 IS AN EVENT SPONSORED PARTLY BY U.N. POLLUTION CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER IN BRATISLAVA SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FALL. LATTER SEMINAR, MUCH NARROWER IN SCOPE THAN USDOC PROGRAM, SHOULD NOT HAVE POSED INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION FOR FMTIR IF WILL WERE THERE, WHICH APPARENTLY IT WAS NOT.

3. EMBASSY DEEPLY REGRETS PROBLEMS CREATED FOR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT BY THIS INORDINATE DELAY ON PART OF CZECHS IN COMING TO A DECISION ON THIS MATTER. COMMERCE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE WERE HIGHLY ENTHUSED OVER PROSPECTS OF ARRANGING THIS TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR, PARTICULARLY GIVEN RATHER CRITICAL PROBLEMS OF WATER POLLUTION EWDTING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PRESSING CZECHS FURTHER ON MATTER AT THIS POINT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750003-0546
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750179/aaaacrrg.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRAGUE 3018
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TECHNICAL SALES SEMINAR ON WATER PURIFICATION AND TREATMENT
TAGS: BEXP, CZ
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006